

SB 78 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Girod

Senate Committee On Business and General Government

Action Date: 02/12/19
Action: Do pass.
Vote: 4-0-1-0
Yeas: 4 - Dembrow, Girod, Hass, Riley
Exc: 1 - Olsen
Fiscal: No fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Tyler Larson, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 2/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Racing Commission (ORC) to adopt rules to issue licenses to conduct off-race course simulcast mutuel wagering. Grants nonrace meet simulcast licensee same permissions afforded to meet licensee. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Potential for Portland Meadows to close and need for simulcast wagering to preserve horse racing and mutuel wagering

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

“Pari-mutuel” wagers are bets made on the outcome of a race. The bets go into a pool managed by an operator, who has no stake in the outcome of the race. The operator deducts a set percentage from the pool and distributes the remainder to the winning patrons. The Oregon Racing Commission (ORC) regulates all aspects of the pari-mutuel industry in Oregon. Current statute allows race meet license holders to host client wager accounts, conduct handicapping contests, conduct off-race course mutuel wagering, and host instant racing machines and video lottery game terminals.

Senate Bill 78 requires the ORC to adopt standards for a new license, the nonrace meet simulcast license. Nonrace meet simulcast licensees are authorized to conduct off-race course simulcast wagering as well as the permissions afforded to race meet licensees.